



Re: Fw: Federal Gov't. Report On Crude-By-Rail - Phillips 66 project 📎

Nicole Retana to: Ryan Hostetter

03/10/2016 03:06 PM

Cc: Donna Hernandez, Ellen Carroll, Ramona Hedges, Steve
McMasters, Whitney McDonald

Ryan:

I have posted this on our website under the Phillips 66 item on Agenda.net. Would you also like me to forward this on to the Commissioners?

Thank you,

Nicole Retana, Secretary

NRetana@co.slo.ca.us



PLANNING & BUILDING
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Ryan Hostetter

Ramona - Can you get this PDF'd and on our we...

03/10/2016 02:47:59 PM

From: Ryan Hostetter/Planning/COSLO
To: Ramona Hedges/Planning/COSLO@Wings
Cc: Nicole Retana/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Donna Hernandez/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Ellen
Carroll/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Steve McMasters/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Whitney
McDonald/Counsel/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/10/2016 02:47 PM
Subject: Fw: Federal Gov't. Report On Crude-By-Rail - Phillips 66 project

Ramona - Can you get this PDF'd and on our web with all our other letters?

Mrs. Ryan Hostetter, AICP, LEED AP
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PLANNING & BUILDING
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

----- Forwarded by Ryan Hostetter/Planning/COSLO on 03/10/2016 02:46 PM -----

From: Eunice King <mrwcoord@gmail.com>
To: rhostetter@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 03/08/2016 03:31 PM
Subject: Fwd: Federal Gov't. Report On Crude-By-Rail

Hello Ryan,

MRWG is submitting the attached Office of Inspector General Audit Report on the Federal Railroad Administration's oversight of hazardous materials shipments issued on February 24, 2016 as relative to the Phillips 66 proposal currently under Planning Commission review. A high level summary of some of the report's pertinent findings is provided in the article referenced below and sites insufficient safeguards of crude-by-rail.

Eunice

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Eunice King

Mesa Refinery Watch Group Administrator

<http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2016/03/01/Trouble-on-the-rails-The-U-S-needs-better-oversight-of-crude-oil-cargo/stories/201603010021>

Trouble on the rails: The U.S. needs better oversight of crude oil cargo

An alarming report issued by the federal Transportation Department's inspector general concluded that regulators are failing to adequately safeguard the nation's freight rail shipments of crude oil and other hazardous cargo.

This is of particular importance in Allegheny County where, every week, as many as 75 trains, each loaded with at least 1 million gallons of volatile crude oil, pass through on tracks close to Downtown and other densely populated communities.

The audit, released last week, concluded that while there had been a significant increase nationwide in rail shipments of crude oil — from 9,500 carloads in 2008 to 407,761 in 2013 — the Federal Railroad Administration did not conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the risks associated with the shipments. The report said the agency does not take into account such significant factors as the condition of the infrastructure, shippers' records of complying with regulations and how close the rails are to population centers.

Those findings are bad enough, but the audit also determined that, even when regulators go after violators, they don't do a good enough job.

The report said that, while regulators pursue civil fines for violations regarding hazardous materials, they do not adjust the sums based on the severity of the infractions or refer cases for criminal investigations. Based on a random sample of violations issued in a five-year period, the inspector general estimated that 20 percent of violations may have warranted but did not receive those referrals.

That means even firms that were paying for violations might have been unjustly avoiding higher fines or, worse, criminal prosecution.

The audit's conclusion said it all: "Effective oversight of this risk prone area requires thorough, timely inspections as well as the application of deterrent penalties when violations occur." The agency agreed, but simply acknowledging the problems is not enough. Focused, forceful oversight is imperative.

[Attachment "FRA Oversight of Hazardous Materials by Rail_Final Report" 2-24-16.pdf deleted by Nicole Peterson/Henry/COSL]